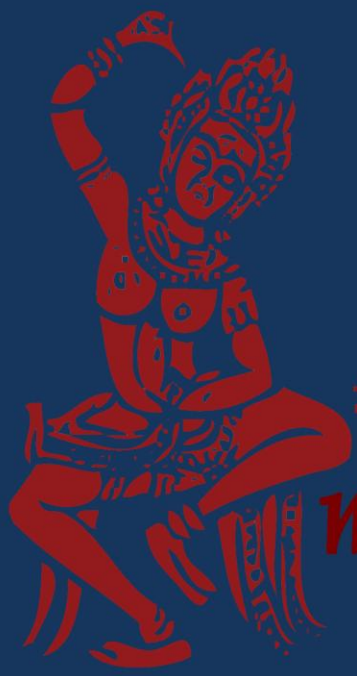

Apsara Asia

Arts Management & Performances

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Bhangra - The Dance Of Punjab

Synopsis

Bhangra, originated from the Punjab region of (Nothwest) India, is a lively form of music and dance. The dance is full of zest, enthusiasm and energy while the lyrics of Bhangra songs reflect the long and often tumultuous history of Punjab. Yet, the vibrant music brings out the free-spirit and un-inhibited flow of emotions. It makes people move the bodies energetically, creating an intoxicating effect on the listeners and thus gives a tremendous joy and releases tension.

This unique form of dance began as part of harvest festival celebrations, where the dance resembles farming activities such as ploughing, sowing, crop cutting, harvesting and the festivals following a successful harvest. With its popularity growing all over the world, both as a traditional form and as a fusion with genres such as hip-hop, house and reggae, it has eventually become a part of diverse festive occasions such as weddings, parties and other celebrations.

In 'Bhangra – The Dance of Punjab', the dancers will demonstrate and provide explanations to their dance form and introduce the "Dhol", the traditional Bhangra percussion instrument. We will also invite audiences to experience the vibrant dance through an interactive session. As Bhangra continues to move into mainstream culture, we will also share with the audience an understanding of its history and tradition to help them appreciate it better. A colorful and upbeat Bhangra performance by experienced dancers will also be showcased for students to witness, experience and enjoy.

Learning Objectives

1. Appreciate and understand the culture, heritage and history of Bhangra dance and Punjab
2. Learn about the evolution of Bhangra dance from traditional to the modern form
3. Experience and learn music beats via the traditional Punjabi percussion instrument, the Dhol

Duration: 30 mins **Cost:** $ 1050

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Poetry Speaks: Poems 2 Stage

Synopsis

'Poetry Speaks: Poems 2 Stage' is a highly educational and innovative arts education programme that showcases 3 different arts forms: Poetry, Music and Movement in a single delightful performance.

Poems are selected from various renowned Singaporean poets, interpreted through music and movement and then weaved together into one colourful performance. This performance provides an opportunity for audience to appreciate the creative works of the poets and allow interpretation of the poems through various performing art forms. Thus it presents well-rounded and deeply truthful insights into the poems.

The performance concept is focused on the effect of combining and promoting the potential power of theatre and poetry. POETRY SPEAKS – POEMS TO STAGE will further investigate cross-art forms approach to poetry, developing the practices.

Learning Objectives

1. Showcase poems of local poets through performance
2. Give an overview of various poems through performance poetry
3. Learn about performance poetry
4. Create an interest in literature through poems and poetry performance
5. Expose students to the artistic expression of poets
6. Encourage students to appreciate poetry and its artistic value

Duration: 30 mins **Cost:** $ 1200

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Stories Comes Alive

(i) Lord Ganesha – The Elephant-faced God; (ii) The Beginning – Pongol, The Harvest Festival;
(iii) Deepavali, The Festival of Lights; (iv) Aladdin in Arab Street; and many more……

Synopsis

Wouldn't it be nice if stories could alive or at least have it seen acted out in front of you? We are here to bring life to legends and let you experience, witness and feel them and their characters.

"Stories Come Alive" will enact both popular and obscure legends, tales and folklores from various countries such as India, Egypt, Indonesia and many more. It will be told through the medium of dance theatre; it becomes a unique collaboration of dance, music and theatre of which the stories are weaved around. Thus this programme will delight audiences with its unique and uncanny display of dances, music and costumes.

Audience will be provided with an opportunity to understand how these legends, tales and folklores came about and at times, became a part of the people's culture and traditions. These stories will also provide audiences a chance to view stories from yester-years told in different ways. The performance will also include various elements of contemporary and traditional dance styles, infused together to further pulsate the show.

Learning Objectives

1. Appreciate and understand different legends, tales and folklores and how they came about
2. Gain knowledge of various legends, tales and folklores from different countries
3. Experience and know the art of storytelling through dance theatre.
4. Know for themselves how such legends became a part of the people's culture and traditions

Duration: 30 mins **Cost:** $ 1250

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Discover The Beauty Of Indian Dance

Synopsis

Indian Dance consists of various forms ranging from Bharatha Natyam, one of the oldest classical dance forms to Bhangra Dance and Dandiya Dance, the folk forms. Bharata Natyam encompasses both drama and dance and can also illustrate events from the Hindu devotional stories and ancient Indian epics. The Bhangra Dance, originated from the Punjab region of (Nothwest) India, is a lively form of music and dance, full of zest, enthusiasm and energy. Finally the Dandiya Dance, also known as The Great Indian Social Dance, originates from Gujarat. It is a very simple dance where dancers move gracefully and with rhythm in circles and hit sticks called the Dandiya.

'Disover The Beauty of Indian Dance' will showcase an enchanting and captivating dance performance performed by experienced dancers. It will be specially accompanied by an introduction to the essential components of Bharatha Natyam and Indian folk dances. This is to assist students to better understand the many intricate rhythmic leg patterns, graceful body movements and facial expressions that are essential to Bharatha Natyam. This exposure aims to encourage them to nurture appreciation for the ancient, traditional, yet captivating art form.

While the audience gains insights into the world of Indian Classical Dance through a Bharatha Natyam performance, an Indian folk dance and / or Indian contemporary dance will also be showcased. Finally a Question and Answer session will be conducted to encourage learning.

Learning Objectives

1. Appreciate the various Indian Dance forms (Bharatha Natyam, etc)
2. Learn about basic elements of Bharatha Natyam and other various Indian folk dances
3. Appreciate and understand Indian Classical Dance particularly, Bharatha Natyam and several Indian Folk dance e.g. Bhangra Dance, Dandiya Dance etc
4. Appreciate the many intricate rhythmic leg patterns, graceful body movements and facial expressions, being the essential components of Bharatha Natyam

Duration: 45 mins **Cost:** $ 1300

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Enchanting Traditional Malay And Indonesian Dance

Synopsis

Malay Dance is of the dance form of the Malay ethnic group, portraying their customs and culture and depicting their true nature and way of life. Indonesian Dance reflects its own country's diversity and cultures as well. It may also depicts stories and tales of fairy-tale characters.

In 'Enchanting Traditional Malay and Indonesian Dance', we will be putting up an enchanting array of Malay and Indonesian Dance performance. It will be specially accompanied by a narration that introduces the distinct differences and the similarities between the dance forms. Brief explanations of the components of Malay traditional dances will also be included in the performance.

Audience will also be invited to experience the different, yet distinct moves of the Traditional Malay dances and the Indonesian dance forms. This exposure aims to encourage students to nurture appreciation for the Traditional Malay and Indonesian Dance Styles. Lastly, a Question and Answer session will be conducted to encourage learning

Learning Objectives

1. Appreciate the Traditional Malay and Indonesian Dance Styles and their differences
2. Gain knowledge on the basic components of the two dance forms
3. Gain insights into the different types of Malay Traditional Dances of the Malay Peninsular
4. Learn the differences between the graceful and high-energy dance movements in the various Malay traditional dances and Indonesian dances

Duration: 40 mins **Cost:** $ 1200

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Synergy In Cultures: A Multi-Ethnic Dance

Synopsis

Singapore being a multi-ethnic country, it is important for people to live harmoniously and peacefully together. Thus understanding one another's cultures and accepting and respecting them become important as well. A multi-ethnic dance is one of the ways people of different ethnic groups come together to put up one dance performance to showcase individual dance forms and how they can work together. Thus 'Synergy In Cultures: A Multi-Ethnic Dance' becomes an ideal program especially for Racial Harmony Day!

This programme showcases individual ethnic group's dance forms accompanied by a brief narration of the individual cultures and arts forms. One of the special features of the performance is a cross-cultural dance segment showing the unique collaboration between multi-ethnic dancers and depicting the concept that arts has no barriers and it's purely based on a joyous experience. This performance is choreographed and performed by professional dancers of the various ethnic groups.

"Synergy in Cultures", weaved within the concepts of racial harmony, aims to showcase the richness of the traditional dance forms and the multi-faceted talents of artists in presenting cross-cultural dances, thus conferring the notion that "Dance has no race, religion or language; but is based purely on rhythm, expression, body movements and joyous experience."

Learning Objectives

1. Be aware and realize the importance of racial harmony and how it can be cultivated through the arts
2. Understand the customs and traditions of the different ethnic groups in Singapore through their art forms
3. Realize the need for different races to live and work together for the success of our nation
4. Appreciate the colourful, multi-cultural feature of the programme
5. Realize and view dance as an joyous experience putting racial differences aside

Duration: 45 mins **Cost:** $ 1500

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Deepavali Celebration: A Dance Programme

Synopsis

Deepavali, popularly known as 'Festival of Lights', is the celebration of the triumph of good over evil. Rows of lamps are placed and traditional Indian customs and practices are followed during this joyous and graceful occasion. Hence this program becomes an ideal interpretation of Deepavali for the Arts Education Program assembly show.

'Deepavali Celebration' featuring Indian Culture is specially designed to showcase aspects of Indian culture and art forms through spectacular, energetic and pulsating Indian dance performance, which features various dance items from captivating Classical Bharatha Natyam to colorful folk dances. Thus this is a colorful and high energy program.

Furthermore, legends of Deepavali will be told through dance and the Indian musical ensemble will be showcased.

"All of us enjoyed the performance. The performance also engaged the pupils with some Q & A. Pupils and teachers were asked to come on stage to participate in some dance movements. I thought that that is a good way to engage the audience. The pupils also enjoyed the Bhangra dance."

Madam Siti Zulaikha from Greendale primary school

Learning Objectives

1. Raise the level of awareness of culture, tradition and lifestyles of Indians through the arts
2. Create a sense of appreciation for culture & arts
3. Learn about the musical ensemble

Duration: 40 mins **Cost:** $ 1500

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Enter the World of Indian Dance

Synopsis

One of the popular and oldest classical forms of Indian Dance is the Bharatha Natyam, originated from Tamil Nadu, South India. Bharata Natyam is often accompanied by classical music and encompasses both drama and dance and illustrates events from the Hindu devotional stories and ancient Indian epics.

Therefore, participants are invited to enter the world of Indian Dance - Bharatha Natyam. The explorative workshop highlights the components of Bharatha Natyam such, as the intricate and graceful dance movements, brief history and origin, explanation of rhythmic leg patterns, hand gestures and facial expressions. A highly interactive session will be conducted followed by detailed explanations for the elements of Bharatha Natyam, encouraging spontaneous learning. Through guided step-by-step learning, participants will also experience the essential elements of the captivating dance form, Bharatha Natyam.

Learning Objectives

1. About Indian Classical Dance - Bharatha Natyam
2. Simple steps of Bharatha Natyam
3. Benefits of learning dance
4. Importance of dance for personal expression
5. and understand the history, origins, style and components of Indian Classical Dance forms
6. to experience and appreciate Indian dance forms

Sessions: 4 **Duration:** 90 mins **No. of participants:** 20 **Cost:** $ 1800

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Kaleidoscope Of Indian Dance: Indian Folk Dance

Synopsis

Indian folk dances are simple dance forms, and are performed to express joy. Folk dances are performed for every possible occasion, to celebrate the arrival of seasons, birth of a child, a wedding and festivals. The dances are extremely simple with minimum steps or movement. The dances burst with verve and vitality. On most occasions, the dances are accompanied by artists on the instruments. Each form of dance has a specific costume. Most costumes are flamboyant with extensive jewels.

There are numerous folk and tribal dances, within India. Sometimes the performance tells a story. The skills and the imagination of the dances influence the performance.

"Kaleidoscope of Indian Dance: Indian Folk Dance" is a 4 four session dance programme that showcases Indian Folk dance forms. The programme provides participants with a glimpse of the different types of Indian folk dance that are prevalent and in existence. The sessions will prepare the participants to enjoy dancing the Indian Folk dances. Participants will also learn to do an Indian folk dance.

Learning Objectives

1. Learn basic Indian hand gestures and movements
2. Learning of a simple Indian dance
3. Understanding classical and folk dance from India
4. Appreciate Indian dance

Sessions: 4 **Duration:** 90 mins **No. of participants:** 15 **Cost:** $ 900

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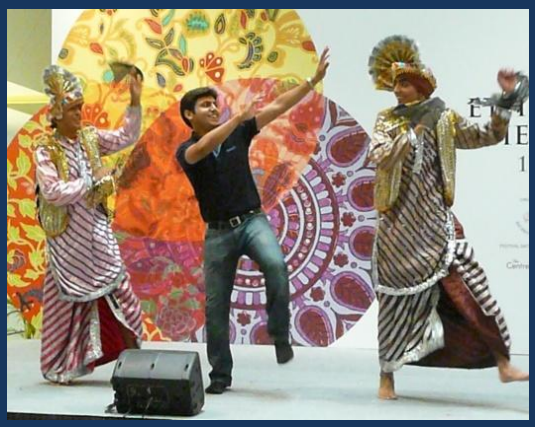
Bhangra Dance Workshop



Synopsis

Bhangra is a lively form of music and dance, originated from the Punjab region of (Nothwest) India. The dance is full of zest, enthusiasm and energy while the lyrics of Bhangra songs reflect the long and often tumultuous history of Punjab. This unique form of dance began as part of harvest festival celebrations, where the dance resembles farming activities such as ploughing, sowing, crop cutting, harvesting and the festivals following a successful harvest. However, with its popularity growing all over the world, it has eventually become a part of diverse festive occasions such as weddings, parties and other celebrations.

The vibrant music brings out the free-spirit and un-inhibited flow of emotions. It makes people move the bodies energetically, creating an intoxicating effect on the listeners and thus gives a tremendous joy and releases tension. As Bhangra continues to move into mainstream culture, an understanding of its history and tradition helps to appreciate it better.

In the 'Bhangra Dance Workshop', we will introduce the Dhol, a North Indian percussion instrument and its corresponding tempos and rhythms in association with Bhangra Dance performed by experienced dancers. Apart from Bhangra, we will also introduce the Gidha. Gidha is also a folk dance of Panjab and danced by the Panjabi females on the beats of Dholki. The dancers enact verses called Boli, which represent folk poetry at its best. The subject matter of these bolis is wide, ranging from everything from arguments within laws or any gossips or politics. Aside from the Dholki, the rhythm of Gidha is set by hand-claps of the dancers and others standing around in circle.

Learning Objectives

1. Appreciate and understand Bhangra and its origins and heritage
2. Learn basic steps of Bhangra dance
3. Experience an array of different Bhangra dance forms and styles
4. Learn about the other Punjab Dances (Gidha) and the Northern Indian percussion instruments used.

Sessions: 1 **Duration:** 90 mins **No. of participants:** 20 **Cost:** $ 1080

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Synergize Multi-ethnic Fusion Dance Xperience

Synopsis

Synergy: Ethnic Fusion Dance Xperince is Apsara Asia's dance experience programme that features the collaboration of the 3 major ethnic dance forms prevalent in Singapore (Malay, Indian and Chinese dances forms). See how these dance forms come together to create a unique style of dance infusing modern moves. This ethnic-fusion contemporary presentation symbolizes Singapore as a multi-ethnic society that is moving beyond!

The workshop will impart skills and knowledge of various ethnic dance moves ranging from Malay: Joget/ Zapin; Indian: Bharatha Natyam/ Indian folk dance moves; Chinese: Martial Arts dance/ Classical Chinese dance forms and introduce the modern dance genres. Participants will also experience the creation of a multi-ethnic fusion modern dance through experiential learning. The program will be hands-on focused and thus provide participants a better understanding of the varied dance moves within fusion and contemporary dance perspectives.

Learning Objectives

1. Impart knowledge and skills in the various ethnic and fusion dance styles and prepare the participants for a mini-dance performance to be showcased at a later stage.
2. Create a holistic aesthetics programme for students and create or support performance opportunities for their students through special performances and school performances.
3. Create an appreciation for both traditional ethnic dance moves and modern-influenced fusion dance forms.
4. Impart the knowledge of choreography, and thematic dance design to execute the performance with diligence and precision.
5. Increase creativity and artistic expression
6. Encourage expression of self through dance
7. Enable participants to enjoy movement and dance
8. Provide an opportunity to better appreciate dance performances

Technical Requirements:

1. Class without furniture or preferably a dance studio
2. CD player

Sessions: 20 **Duration:** 120 mins **No. of participants:** 25 **Cost:** $ 120 / hr

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Moving Forward With Traditions

Synopsis

Moving Forward with Traditions features the different cultures of Singapore through the introduction of the various ethnic dance forms prevalent. The session will begins with a 15 mins info-ad multi-media session that will take one on a journey to understand the different cultural beliefs, costumes, faces and art forms of Singaporeans today! There will be a short narrative text about our forefathers in association with Singapore's story through a dance theatre performance. This will feature different ethnic groups of Singapore through their traditional dance forms and how they work together featured as a multi-cultural dance.

There will be a demonstration session of each of the dance forms with narrative text to explain its origins and components. The program will feature an array of multi-ethnic dances which are from different dance origins. This unique collaboration of multi-ethnic dancers can be used to commemorate Racial Harmony through the arts. Students can look forward to learning about the importance of racial harmony and how it can be cultivated through the arts. They will also learn simple ethnic movements (e.g. Chinese, Malay, Indian) and how to move to music

Learning Objectives

1. Learn and appreciate the cultural mix of Singapore through an experiential journey.
2. To know more about our neighbours, arts forms, music and dance forms of Singapore.
3. Understanding the importance of ethnic dance forms of Singapore.

Art Form: Dance Excursion

Venue: Apsara Asia Studio (Little India area)

Sessions: 1 **Duration:** 45 mins **No. of participants:** 40 **Cost:** $ 25 / student

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Expressing….Sounds

Synopsis

Sound is an essential part of the world and is commonly known for moving groups of people, festivities and cultures! Different sounds express different meanings and can be associated with different emotions. For example, the calmness of nature can be experienced through the sounds of a flute. The enchanting sounds of the melodious Indian instrument Sitar can pierce and move the soul with feelings of happiness. Drums such as the Thavel can bring forth energetic liveliness for festivities like the Indian Festival Thaipusam.

Students can look forward to learning about Indian music culture, types of instruments, how to play the instruments, rhythms, beats and tempos and to experience evocative feelings through the music.

Let EXPRESSING… SOUNDS take you on a journey to experience the emotive ability of sound.

Learning Objectives

1. To show that music and emotions are associative.
2. Each musical instrument has a unique quality of sound.
3. Music can be a representative of time, culture and festivities.

Technical requirements

1. PA system
2. 5 mics with 5 mic stands

Sessions: 1 **Duration:** 40 mins **Cost:** $ 1800

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Middle Eastern Music Percussion Workshop

Synopsis

Middle Eastern music is the name given to the folk, religious and classical music from the geographic area that includes the countries of the Middle East through to Central Asia. This music weaves fine poetry, sophisticated melodic improvisation, musical composition and a wide range of long complex rhythmic patterns into a rich and diverse tapestry of sound that embodies the basic aesthetic values of the land and people of the region.

All over the Middle East and North Africa we can find the Darbuka, Darabuk, Doumbek or Tombak, depending on place of origin, they can vary in shape, name, material and size. They are normally played under the arm, with one hand doing mainly basic beats, while the other does mainly accenting. A lot of technique is required for all the subtle accenting in oriental rhythms. Notations for Doumbek rhythms are given as Doum (bass) and Tek (high). They are often used for Belly dance music. They come in all kinds of materials, from ceramic to aluminium, copper and silverplated

Learning Objectives

1. Learning of Middle Eastren music
2. Experience of playing the Darbuka
3. Understanding of various tempos and beats in Middle Eastern music
4. Understanding the synergy of Middle Eastern music and dance
5. Understanding of culture, history and music of Middle East

Sessions: 1 **Duration:** 120 mins **No. of participants:** 20 **Cost:** $ 600

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